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Environment and sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 98 (see A/56/561, para. 2). Action on sub-item 98 (a) was taken at the 22nd and 40th meetings, on 5 November and 12 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.22 and 40).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.11 and A/C.2/56/L.71

2. At the 22nd meeting, on 5 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "World Summit on Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/56/L.11), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 55/199 of 20 December 2000 and the decisions adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its organizational session,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/56/561 and Add.1-8.



"Encouraging countries and relevant regional and international organizations to support the preparatory processes,

"Welcoming the preparatory activities undertaken at the national level, encourages all countries to energize this work and calls on the United Nations system to support such activities,

"Welcoming also the activities of major groups related to the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

"Encouraging new initiatives that would contribute to the full implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and other relevant outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development through strengthening global commitments, including partnerships between Governments of the North and the South on the one hand, and between Governments and major groups on the other,

"Expressing its appreciation of the work undertaken by South Africa and Indonesia as the host Governments of the Summit and of the fourth session of the preparatory committee at the ministerial level,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. Approves the provisional rules and procedures of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as recommended by the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its organizational session;

"3. Requests the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit to decide on all remaining issues related to the organization of work of the Summit, including specific details of the series of events to be held in partnership with stakeholders, the short multi-stakeholder event involving the highest level of representation from major groups and Governments and the round-table meetings to be held at the level of heads of State or Government;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to launch a comprehensive and proactive public information campaign with sufficient financial resources to raise global awareness of the World Summit on Sustainable Development while also building broad international support for the World Summit and its goals;

"5. Invites donors to continue providing extrabudgetary resources in support of the preparatory activities for the Summit, as well as the travel of representatives from the developing countries to attend the sessions of the preparatory committee and the Summit;

"6. Calls upon relevant regional and international organizations to further step up their efforts to assist countries in completing their national assessment reports in time;

"7. Reiterates that the Summit, including its preparatory process, should ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection since these are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

"8. *Encourages* the active involvement of all relevant regional and international agencies and organizations to provide input and contributions to the preparatory process of the World Summit;

"9. *Emphasizes* that the outcome of all intergovernmental processes relevant to the World Summit be submitted as input for consideration by the preparatory committee, in conformity with the decision taken at its organizational session;

"10. *Reiterates* the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee as the sole global intergovernmental process for the preparation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and emphasizes the mandate and role of its Bureau, as stipulated by the General Assembly in resolution 55/199 and the decisions adopted by the preparatory committee at its organizational session;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21", taking into account the outcome of the World Summit."

3. At its 40th meeting, on 12 December, the Committee had before it a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.11, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/56/L.19).

4. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Dharmansjah Djumala (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "World Summit on Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/56/L.71), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.11.

5. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee stated that the programme budget implications contained in document A/C.2/56/L.19 applied equally to draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.71 (see A/C.2/56/SR.40).

6. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.71 (see para. 10).

7. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Belgium (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Canada (also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand) and Japan (see A/C.2/56/SR.40). After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Brazil, Nigeria and Egypt (see A/C.2/56/SR.40).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.71, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.11 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Documents relating to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

9. At its 40th meeting, on 12 December, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit for Sustainable Development on its organizational session¹ (see para. 11).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

World Summit on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/199 of 20 December 2000 and the decisions adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its organizational session,²

Encouraging countries and relevant regional and international organizations to support the preparatory processes,

Welcoming national preparations for the Summit, including those at the local level, through the establishment of preparatory committees, with the participation of Governments and other stakeholders, the undertaking of national assessments and the initiation of other preparatory activities, encouraging all countries to intensify that work and calling on the United Nations system to support such activities,

Also welcoming the activities of major groups related to the preparations for the Summit, and encouraging them to carry out further preparatory activities,

Further welcoming the valuable contributions from the preparatory activities undertaken at the subregional and regional levels, as well as from other relevant initiatives undertaken at the international level,

Encouraging new initiatives that would contribute to the full implementation of Agenda 21,³ the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development⁴ and other relevant outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development by strengthening commitments at all levels, including by reinvigorating, at the highest political level, global commitment and partnerships,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/56/19).*

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/56/19)*, chap. VIII, sect. B.

³ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution I, annex II.

⁴ *Ibid.*, annex I.

especially between Governments of the North and the South, on the one hand, and between Governments and major groups on the other,

Expressing its appreciation for the work undertaken by South Africa and Indonesia as the host Governments, respectively, of the Summit and the fourth session of the preparatory committee at the ministerial level,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;⁵
2. *Approves* the provisional rules of procedure of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as recommended by the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the Summit at its organizational session;⁶
3. *Decides* that the Summit will be open to all States Members of the United Nations and States Members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly and its conferences and with the rules of procedure of the Summit;
4. *Decides* that the Summit shall be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, with the participation of heads of State and Government during the period 2 to 4 September;
5. *Reiterates* that the Summit, including its preparatory process, should ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection since they are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;
6. *Invites* countries to be represented at the highest political level at the Summit;
7. *Requests* the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the Summit to decide on all remaining issues related to the organization of work of the Summit, including specific details of the series of events to be held in partnership with stakeholders, the short multi-stakeholder event involving the highest level of representation from major groups and Governments and the round-table meetings to be held at the level of heads of State or Government;
8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to launch a public information campaign to raise global awareness of the Summit, including through reprioritization of the budget of the Department of Public Information and voluntary contributions;
9. *Invites* donors to continue providing extrabudgetary resources, in particular through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund, in support of the preparatory activities for the Summit and the Summit itself, and to support the travel and participation of representatives of developing countries, particularly from the least developed countries, and encourages voluntary contributions to support the participation of major groups from developing countries;
10. *Encourages* all countries to complete their national assessment reports, and in that regard calls upon relevant regional and international organizations to

⁵ A/56/379.

⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/56/19), chap. VIII, sect. A, draft resolution, annex.*

further step up their efforts to assist developing countries in the elaboration of those assessment reports;

11. *Encourages*, at the national level, the active involvement of all government agencies responsible for economic development, social development and environmental protection, and invites them to provide coordinated inputs and contributions to the preparatory process of the Summit;

12. *Encourages* the active involvement of all relevant regional and international agencies and organizations, and invites them to provide input and contributions to the preparatory process of the Summit;

13. *Encourages* effective contributions from and the active participation of all major groups, as identified in Agenda 21,³ at all stages of the preparatory process, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as its established practices for the participation and engagement of major groups;

14. *Reiterates* the invitation to all intergovernmental processes relevant to the Summit to submit their progress reports to the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its second session (28 January-8 February 2002) and their final results to the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its third session (25 March-5 April 2002), so that they can be fully considered in the preparatory process;

15. *Reiterates* the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee in the global intergovernmental process for the preparation of the Summit, and in that context recalls the mandate and role of its Bureau, as stipulated by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/199 and the decisions adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee at its organizational session;²

16. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General to raise international awareness on the Summit;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the outcome of the Summit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21", taking into account the outcome of the Summit.

* * *

11. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Documents relating to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

The General Assembly decides to take note of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit for Sustainable Development on its organizational session.⁷

⁷ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/56/19).